

noon quite late in the afternoon when this amendment was originally voted on, I asked for reconsideration at that time because it seemed to me that the attention of the delegates was elsewhere with the coming holidays, and that far fewer delegates voted than would have been interested in the question.

I think that much of the debate would not have to be redone at this time. I would like to remind the delegates that this came as a committee report after full discussion within the Committee on the Legislative Branch, and because the committee majority felt that such a suggestion was in line with part of its package for a reformed and revitalized legislature, that among the many reforms was this one.

We heard, and some of us knew from personal experience, how difficult it was to find out what was going on in the legislature. We knew that the journal was not always available. We recognized the fact that this is a different kind of state government that we are embarking on and that a certain amount of expenditure will be necessary.

We were appalled when we found out how a billion dollar budget was checked over. We realized it was never really thoroughly scrutinized. We learned that many programs in the State were not examined by the legislature. We learned that interested people did not know what was happening nor who had said what, nor if anything had been said on certain programs.

All of this led us to the growing realization that if in some way this State were to accept its responsibilities and no longer claim that the federal government was encroaching, that the State would have to act in a manner that showed it had grown to those responsibilities, and that this in some measure would cost money. For this reason we recommended every reform that we knew that was consonant with good government.

I have in hand here from a delegate who was a member of that Committee a little booklet published by the United States Savings and Loan Association called the Director's Digest and in it there is an article:

"Harried legislators are bent on reforms." I would like to read you just one sentence, a long one, but just one sentence: "State legislatures, determined to survive as a vital force in government, are beginning to fight back. Ill-staffed

for the most part, long handicapped by archaic rules, poorly paid, caught between rising demands for services and shrinking sources of revenue, the law-making bodies of the fifty states have seen their authority slowly eroded by federal government and a growing power of the state executive branch."

I can think of no more appropriate place to mention all this than right here. We have built a strong executive branch. We have emboldened the authority of the General Assembly first by one provision, then another. We talk about the rights of the people as if the people are separate from the legislative branch. I submit to you that the rights of the people are founded in the legislative branch. I can see no more important way of strengthening those rights than by strengthening the legislative branch. I know nothing more important in terms of information to the people, so that they can tell what is going on, than to furnish a transcript of debate. No matter what it should cost, I submit to you that in no other measure or means could it cost anything like the expenses that should go to examine a billion dollar budget.

I would urge that we reconsider this amendment, that we redesign our thinking in terms of the mounting problems, and that we support this reconsideration.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. President, we worked on this matter on December 29. I walked over to my desk in the committee room to find out the date of the last transcript and learned that just the minute before there was distributed the transcript for December 9 on the 29th. This placed the entire matter exactly twenty days in arrears, not working days, I admit, but twenty calendar days in arrears.

How this thing would possibly strengthen the legislature, I am not clear. I would be happy to listen to this type of argument but I have not heard it before, I did not hear it just now except the bald statement.

I think cost is a very important item. I think as this thing draws to a close more and more of us are becoming conscious of the word cost.

The President was very kind in that he made a personal investigation as to how this thing is done in Congress. How is it that in Congress they are able to transcribe one day and deliver the manuscript the next day? It goes something like this.